



The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 24

ISSUE 7

JULY 2018

MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center

Thursday, July 19, 7:00 PM

The Beauty of Native Plants:

Their Function in Supporting Wildlife in Urban and Suburban Landscapes



On July 19, join Tollgate volunteers to learn the principles of sustainable landscaping and how to reduce resource inputs and create habitats.

Native plants withstand sub-zero temperatures, summer heat, drought, and insect predation all without supplemental water, fertilizers, or sprays. Native plants co-evolved relationships with native insects, and together, form the foundation of the food chain that supports butterflies, bees, birds, and predators.

Native plants are increasingly available to the average consumer to create beautiful landscapes that are planned and designed to increase habitat, reduce resource use, and build healthier outdoor living areas.



President of the Wildflower Association of Michigan, <http://www.wildflowersmich.org/>, **Drew Lathin** is the owner of Creating Sustainable Landscapes, LLC., which uses native plants to create beautiful and ecologically restorative landscapes for residential, commercial, and public spaces that support wildlife, reduce resource needs, and create healthy outdoor spaces.

“Sunset Garden Celebration”

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

| JUL | MEETINGS | | AUG | MEETINGS | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|---------|
| 19 | Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting | 7:00 PM | 7 | TGAC Meeting | 7:00 PM |
| | | | 16 | Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting | 7:00 PM |
| JUL | ACTIVITIES | | AUG | ACTIVITIES | |
| 21 | Tollgate Open House | 4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM | 4 | Heritage / Office / Dry Shade | 9:00 AM |
| 28 | Children's / Nursery / Pond | 9:00 AM | 11 | Entrance / Front Farmhouse | 9:00 AM |
| | | | 18 | Xeriscape / Children's / Nursery | 9:00 AM |
| | | | 25 | Rose / Rain Garden | 9:00 AM |



FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

GREETINGS

Roy Prentice

Greetings All,

Wow! Where did all the rain go? Recent dry weather has required lots of watering in the Tollgate Gardens for the last few weeks. I really appreciate all of the hard work that has gone into keeping the plants



alive. Thanks too for all the great work by the many volunteers who have shown up for Saturday volunteer days! I really appreciate all of your assistance in keeping Tollgate's gardens in such good shape.

Open House: The 2018 Open House will soon be upon us. Music will again be provided by the eclectic folk/blues/country band, **Whoa Nelly** and Tollgate's own, **Art Durow** and friends. There will also be hay rides, refreshments, garden talks and lots of items of interest to help all of our visitors enjoy the afternoon. Come join all of the beautiful people who will be making the scene at Tollgate. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities for the Open House. There are many ways to sign up. You can respond to the recent email Doodle poll, email me or Renee directly, or sign-up with an actual pen in the volunteer building.

In addition to volunteering on the day of the event, we also need donated packaged cookies for our guests. *Please make sure that there are no nuts in any donated goodies.*

Even if you are unable to work on the day of the open house, please plan to join us, stroll the grounds, and take in the day.

Quilt Raffle: We will be conducting the raffle drawing on the day of the open house for the quilt made by Tollgate's own *Quilting Bees*. This is a great fundraiser for the gardens. You still have an opportunity to purchase

tickets for the quilt. Please contact me or purchase tickets on the day of the Open House. It all goes to support our gardens. This year promises to be our most successful year yet with the quilt raffle. Please purchase often. I just know that the winning ticket is still out there!

Ginger Meyer Award: I am now accepting nominations for the Ginger Meyer award. The recipient of this award is the Tollgate Volunteer that has done the most for Tollgate over the years. I would be happy to send a nomination form to anyone that would like one. You are also welcome to just send me your nomination in an email. Simply indicate who you feel has contributed the most to Tollgate over the years and why. This is your chance to help us recognize those in our midst that have really given of themselves to make Tollgate a better place.

Thanks for all that you do to make Tollgate such a wonderful place!

Roy



Above Photos by Roy Prentice



LEARN
GROW
MAKE FRIENDS
ENJOY

"I want it said of me by those who knew me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower might grow."

Abraham Lincoln

Notes from the President

Renee Cottrell

Thanks to all who have been working during this challenging spring and summer weather to keep up on our garden maintenance and enhance the garden experience for all our visitors. You make Tollgate special.

Open House 2018 "Sunset Garden Celebration"!

Please join us for an event to educate and entertain as well as introduce more people in the community to the gardens and Tollgate! This free, open to the public, rain or shine event is nearly upon us! Enjoy garden walks, musicians, educational talks, quilt raffle, hayrides, vendors and more. **Saturday July 21st 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Volunteers are invited to participate as hosts then afterwards join us at 7:30 PM for the **volunteer picnic! Main dish and side to be provided, dish to pass welcome but not required.**

There are plenty of ways to contribute to this event.

We still need:

- Assist with garden clean up during the week-weeding, deadheading for best presentation
- Set up for Saturday at 10:00 AM
- Finger food snack donations for our guests e.g., cookies, brownies, tarts, "fit on a napkin" type treats **(no nuts please) - drop off day of event in conference center by 4:00 pm**
- Garden docents to meet and greet guests, talk about the gardens you love, no special experience needed, Garden binders will have some info for sharing purposes
- Parking assistants to direct traffic

If you have not yet signed up, OR just wish to RSVP for the picnic, please contact me ASAP by email rmcottrell4@att.net or phone (248-398-2562). Or use this Doodle Link <https://doodle.com/poll/qv43yvht9mh6du9>

We wish to thank out going Hospitality Chairperson **Yvonne DeMattos** for all her help with our special events and welcome in-coming Hospitality Chairperson **Teresa LaRosa** who will guide our volunteers involved with the food aspects of our volunteer events. Thank you Teresa!



2017 "Sunset Garden Celebration"

Photos by Mike Janczarek

Continued on the Next Page

Notes from the President (Continued)

Questions on Ticks? - This has been a season of increased tick activity across the eastern states and we have seen this as well at Tollgate and our own urban back yards. See these attached links for information and prevention tips.

<https://medlineplus.gov/magazine/issues/spring17/articles/spring17pg25-27.html>

<https://www.npr.org/625459326>

It is time again to place your nominations for the Ginger Meyer Award. This award is presented at the end of the year at the recognition dinner. Please honor a fellow Tollgate gardener(s) who has demonstrated their knowledge, commitment and willingness to share their love of gardening. Nomination form is also available at meetings and online. Previous recipients are listed on the plaque in the volunteer center. The form is attached to this newsletter.

Area Garden Teams - All expanded budget requests for garden area expenditures should be submitted for TGAC approval ASAP. Any receipts and a reimbursement form for your Tollgate garden purchases should be submitted as soon as possible so we can reconcile actual expenses against budgeted expenses. Call Roy if you need a form and instructions.

As Always, Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

Renee Cottrell, TGV President

Haymaking

The John Deere baler, funded by generous donations from the Tollgate Garden Volunteers, continues to function very well. The Tollgate staff made about 800 bales this season and the baler only missed tying about five bales. This is very, very good. There is now plenty of hay in the barn to keep all of Tollgate's animals fat and sassy all winter long.



SATURDAY WORKDAYS

Photos by Darretta Ferasin





VOLUNTEERS
TOGETHER
DIVIDING
GROWING
SHARING

NURSERY NOTES

Peg Palmer

July 2018 has been typical for the nursery.... Lots of empty spaces in the rows after a successful plant sale, providing the nursery team with an opportunity to catch our breath after the fast pace of the weeks leading up to the sale! Fewer pots makes it easy to see what's there, but we quickly find it's better to move these pots together in each row to make it easier to water and grouping pots together may help to provide a bit of insulation from changing temperature extremes. Although we've had periods with lots of rain, there have also been several weeks recently with very hot temperatures and little or no rainfall, so keeping our pots hydrated during those times is always a challenge. We have just added 5 watering stations in the SUN nursery along with a new faucet in the SHADE house – previously, it was necessary to drag a hose all the way from the label table at the road to water these pots! This is a big step towards making it quicker and easier to hand water our plants, as we continue to search for more efficient and less labor-intensive alternatives.

Each summer, the nursery team takes a much-needed break between the plant sale on the first Saturday in June and when the nursery reopens for donations in mid-August (this year's reopening date is set for Saturday, August 18). Although we have members stopping in to water, weed and check on the plants in their rows, the nursery is typically a pretty quiet place during the week and even on many Saturday workdays. **Please be aware that the nursery team DOES NOT check regularly for donations while the nursery is closed!** If you have desirable plants available during these times, please get in touch with *Peg Palmer* to make specific arrangements and ensure that your donation receives the attention required for survival!

We currently have about 1,000 pots in the nursery but will be working to have close to 4,000 pots in stock for 2019 Spring Sale! So, we will really need lots of plant divisions this fall and next spring from our Tollgate gardens as well as the gardens of all Tollgate Garden Volunteers! Please look for the "Plants Wanted" information we will be sending out in August to let you know the varieties of plants that we need to restock the nursery.

Working in the nursery is a great way to learn about a lot about a lot of plants! Let me know if you would like to learn more about how we operate, or if you would like to join the Nursery Team. We currently have openings for Row Leaders, Co-Row Leaders as well as At Large members.

Peg Palmer - pegpalmer@mi.rr.com

2018 Tollgate Quilt

LAST CALL

“REFLECTIONS”

You have two remaining opportunities to purchase your winning raffle ticket for the 2018 quilt. You can purchase tickets at the July 19 Tollgate Volunteer Meeting or at the “Sunset Garden Celebration”, Open House.

Raffle Tickets are \$2.00 Each or 3 for \$5.00

Quilt Pattern: Infinite Possibilities

Approximate Size: 92 inches x 92 inches
(would fit a queen size bed with a 12 inch drop)



TOLLGATE GARDEN VIEWS



Hosta Garden and Farmhouse Garden



Bridge to Farmhouse Garden Brick Path



South Xeriscape Garden



Office Garden

Above Photos by Renee Cottrell



Constructed Wetland (Pond) Gardens



Children's Garden



Above Photos by Darretta Ferasin

TOLLGATE GARDEN VIEWS



Children's Garden



Enabling Garden



Farmhouse Garden



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

A Special Thanks!

To all of you who made a donation to help the Tollgate Gardeners make Tollgate a more beautiful place. Your donation is greatly appreciated! The support that you have provided will continue to help our program prosper and grow. Thanks again and Happy Gardening!

Cherry Lee Baker
Amy Deeds
Marilyn Diekman

Cynthia Dickinson
Erick Hoscila
Marge and Bill Johnston

Deb Kearney
Kurt Naszradi
Martha Rotter

Carmen Taylor
John J. Turchin



Jack's Excellent Summer Vacation

Cindy, Roy and Jack Prentice recently took a trip to Marquette to see Sam. Jack enjoyed the car ride, the view from the Mighty Mac and a swim in Lake Superior.



PAR GARDEN UPDATE

Photos by Kathryn Fitzpatrick



Annie Bolz, Mary Bohner, MaryAnn Chupa, and Judi Spence



First Harvest of the Year
Michelle Lewis Picks
9 lbs. of Zucchini

The vegetable beds are flourishing - carrots, beets, potatoes, green beans, onions, garlic, cabbage, shallots, several types of squash, and sweet potatoes are looking good. We are constantly battling potato bugs, but the team is diligent.

Kathryn Fitzpatrick



Tollgate Volunteer Information

Activity Days

Activity day hours are 9:00 AM to noon unless otherwise noted on the Tollgate Garden Volunteer Important Dates and Events listed on the first page of the Tollgate Farm News or by the Area Garden Leader (AGL).

Lunch will be provided on scheduled workdays. Veggie alternatives are available upon request.

This schedule does not exclude you from working independently on the site. However, on non-scheduled days, your efforts will need to be self-directed with guidance from the garden area binders located in the Volunteer Communication Center.

If you aren't getting
The **Tollgate Farm News**
email, Check your
SPAM folder

**Volunteer Activity Day and
Meetings Information**
248-347-3860 ext. 400

Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate

- Spades
- Garden Rakes
- Brooms
- Wheelbarrows
- Weed Buckets
- Leaf Rakes
- Garden Hoe
- Long Handled Garden Forks

List of Suggested Gardening Implements to Bring from Home as Needed

- Trowel
- Pruners
- Loppers
- Garden Scissors
- Your Favorite Weeding Implement
- Hand Saw
- Plant Division Forks
- Shrub Rake
- Sun Screen
- Garden Gloves
- Knee Pads
- Insect Repellent

Tollgate Garden Advisory Council

Farm Manager

Roy Prentice - 248 347-3860 ext. 251
email - prentic1@msu.edu

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| President | Renee Cottrell |
| Vice President | Marilyn Alimpich |
| Secretary | Dave Komraus |
| Treasurer | Sue Janczarek |
| Membership | Cindy Bolterstein |
| PR | Rosina Newton |
| Programs | Jackie Stengel |
| Hospitality | Teresa LaRosa |
| Farm News Editor | Darretta Ferasin |

For membership questions or to update your current membership information send email to:

tollgatemembers@gmail.com

MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteers

For general information and questions
Contact Roy Prentice or See Website:

<http://tollgate.msu.edu/volunteering/>

- The Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 7:00 PM** in the Tollgate Office Building. All Tollgate Gardens Volunteer members are welcome to attend.
- Listings to contact individual Council Members and Area Garden Leaders are available at all general meetings and in the Volunteer Communication Center.
- Tollgate Volunteer Membership is renewed annually. The 2017 Tollgate Garden Volunteers membership is from **December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2018**.

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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tollgate.msu.edu

Contact Roy Prentice:
248-347-3860 ext. 251

